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mistake about it, I rise in support of this bill. I want to compliment the Chair of the Transportation Committee and the entire committee for the work they've done here. I think this is a critical bill for the people of our state, and for any of us who represent low-income folks, for any of us who represent people who live in the country, a long distance, perhaps, from town, you need to be in favor of this bill. If, for example, Senator Jim Jones, who lives on a ranch miles from town, do you know what the actual cost of serving Senator Jones's home is? Think about what it costs to string wire out to the middle of nowhere. It costs a huge amount. And let me tell you, there are a lot of people who live out in the country who aren't going to want to pay three or four hundred dollars a month for their phone service. And only if we have this Universal Service Fund are those people going to be able to have affordable phone service. So this is a critical bill for those reasons. I want to talk briefly, as well, about the ex parte communications idea, and perhaps that's an idea that some of you haven't thought about. I'll tell you what it's like in practice. I am over before the Public Service Commission occasionally with my legal practice and clients I represent, and ex parte communications, essentially the idea of ex parte means you can't go to a judge, somebody who is sitting in a judicial function and talk to them about a case without the other side being there. Well, these folks over at the Public Service Commission, the five commissioners, they sit in a quasi-judicial role, and so what happens is right now ex parte communications are allowed as long as they're reported. So if I'm the lawyer on one side, Senator Wehrbein is the lawyer on the other side, we might both be running to the commissioner, Commissioner Landis, for example, Senator Landis's brother happens to be a commissioner, and making our point about a case. Now that's legal, there's nothing wrong with that, if Senator...as long as Commissioner Landis makes a report that an ex parte communication took place. The problem is there is a lot of mistrust going on between the different parties, who got to talk to which commissioner at which time. This bill will solve that problem, and it will solve it for the commissioners too. I think they'll welcome this because they won't have to worry about, oh, gee whiz, was that conversation I had in the elevator with so-and-so attorney, was that ex parte? Did we actually talk about the issue that's before us? So that part of the bill, I think, is critical as